

PROPERTY PLANNING COMMON ELEMENTS

BACKGROUND AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION

NR 44 ROAD AND TRAIL STANDARDS

DNR road and trail classifications for use in master planning are established and described in NR 44.07(3). These classifications reflect a range of development and maintenance standards.

Roads

- **Primitive roads** are temporary or permanent seasonal roads with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 12 feet, with little or no roadbed grading, minimal cut and fill, and a surface of primitive* or native* material.
- **Lightly developed roads** are temporary roads, permanent seasonal roads, or permanent all-season roads that are primarily a single lane with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 16 feet, are lightly to well-graded with minimal cut and fill, are surfaced with native* or aggregate materials except in limited special use situations where asphalt may be used, and have a maximum design speed of 15 miles/hour (mph).
- **Moderately developed roads** are permanent seasonal roads or permanent all-season roads that typically have 2 lanes, but may be 1-lane, have a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 45 feet for 2-lane and 30 feet for 1-lane, have a well-graded roadbed and may have moderate cuts and fills and shallow ditching, have a surface of aggregate, asphalt or native* material, and a maximum design speed of 25 mph.
- **Fully developed roads** are permanent all-season roads with a cleared width normally of 50 feet or more, a roadbed with cuts and fills as needed, an aggregate, asphalt, or other paved surface, and are designed for speeds exceeding 25 mph.

Trails

- A **primitive trail** is a minimally developed single-file trail with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 8 feet and a minimal tread width for the intended use, and has a rough, ungraded bed where large rocks, stumps, and downed logs may be present. It primarily follows the natural topography, has no or few shallow cuts and fills, and is surfaced with primitive* or native* materials, except for limited circumstances where environmental conditions require the use of other materials. Modifications to the natural trail surface are limited to that which is minimally necessary to provide essential environmental protection.
- A **lightly developed trail** is a trail with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 16 feet, a moderately wide tread width for the designated use, a rough-graded base to remove stumps and large rocks, and a surface of primitive* or native* materials, except where other materials are required due to environmental conditions, or where the trail also serves as a lightly developed road where other types of surfacing materials are used.
- A **moderately developed trail** is a trail with a maximum sustained cleared width normally not exceeding 8 feet, a minimal tread width for the intended use, and a relatively smooth graded base with a compacted surface composed of stable materials such as aggregate. Where practicable and feasible, a moderately



developed trail shall, at a minimum, meet the standards for recreational trails accessible to persons with a disability.

- A **full developed trail** is a trail with a smoothly graded base and a stable hard surface composed of materials such as asphalt, aggregate, or frozen earth. The trail's cleared width, tread width, and cuts and fills are not limited, but shall be appropriate for the trail's intended use. To the degree practicable and feasible, fully developed pedestrian trails shall be fully accessible by persons with physical disabilities.

* "Native" surface material means unprocessed, indigenous road and trail surfacing material. "Primitive" surface material means the natural soil, rock, or sand surface existing on roads and trails that developed through use and was not constructed.

